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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/725,249	12/01/2003	Dorel Marius Necsoiu	090936.0506	1933

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PATENT DEPARTMENT  
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EXAMINER

PYO, MONICA M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2161

DATE MAILED: 06/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/725,249	<b>Applicant(s)</b> NECSOIU ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Monica M. Pyo	<b>Art Unit</b> 2161	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/1/2003</u> : | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

***DETAILED ACTION***

1. Claims 1-14 are present for examination and these claims are rejected.

***Information Disclosure Statement***

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 12/1/2003 was filed and considered by the examiner.

***Claim Objections***

3. Claims 2, 10, 11 and 13 are objected to because of the following informalities:
- The acronyms "XML" and "HTML" should be spelled-out in Claims 2, 10 and 13.
  - The acronym "FDGC" should be spelled-out in Claim 11.

Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 3-9 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Publication "Metadata and GIS; An ESRI White Paper", published on October 2002 ERIS (hereafter ERIS), in view U.S. Patent No. 6,879,988 issued to Basin et al. (hereafter Basin).

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Claim 1:

Regarding Claim 1, ESRI disclose a method of providing access to geodata, comprising the steps of:

using a metadata builder to access geodata input files and to generate metadata files associated with the geodata files (ESRI: pg. 1, [GIS Data Sharing on the Internet Is a Rality], Ins. 6-10; pg. 1, [ESRI Supports Metadata], Ins. 1-5);

the geodata input files (ERIS: pg. 1, [GIS Data Sharing on the Internet Is a Rality], Ins. 6-10)

storing metadata files in a repository (ERIS: pg. 6, [ArcSDE]; Ins. 1-2);

using a metadata harvester to retrieve the metadata files from the repository and to build a metadata database (ESRI: pg. 7, Ins. 1-4; pg. 7, [Discovering Metadata With ArcCatalog], Ins. 1-4);

storing the metadata database in memory accessible by an internet server (ESRI: pg. 5, [Publishing Metadata], Ins. 1-3); and

using the internet server to: communicate via the Internet with a user's web browser; to receive query data from the web browser; to respond to the queries by accessing the metadata database; a results page containing a list of records (ERIS: pg. 7, [With ArcCatalog], Ins. 1-8), each record having a metadata link to metadata associated with the record (pg. 7, [With Metadata Explorer], Ins. 10-14); a metadata page in response to activation of the metadata link, the metadata page containing metadata and at least one link; to retrieve file from the repository in response to activation of the link; and to download locally file via a web browser (pg. 6, [ArcSDE], Ins. 1-15; pg. 6, [Clearinghouse Support], Ins. 1-6).

ESRI does not explicitly disclose:

to download,

using a file converter to convert to downloadable archive files;

the archive files and

However, Basin discloses:

the handling of downloaded zip files which corresponds to download (Basin: col. 2, lns. 50-54)

the compression/extraction component's functionality, which corresponds to using a file converter to convert to downloadable archive files (Basin; col. 2, lns. 50-54; col. 4, lns. 48-52);

the handling of archive files, which corresponds to the archive files and (Basin: col. 4, lns. 48-52).

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate compression/extraction component to utilize archiving files of Basin into the geographic information system of ESRI. One skilled artisan would have been motivated to combine the Basin's teaching of archiving files in the ESRI's teaching of accessing geodata of ESRI to allow quick and easy management and manipulation of complex zip archive files (Basin: col. 2, lns. 40-48).

Claim 3:

Regarding Claim 3, ESRI and Basin disclose the method wherein one or more file formats and archive files are derived from a number of geodata input files (ERIS: pg. 1, [GIS Data Sharing on the Internet Is a Reality], lns. 6-10) and (Basin: col. 4, lns. 48-54).

Claim 4:

Regarding Claim 4, ESRI and Basin disclose the method wherein the archive files are lossless compressed data files (Basin: col. 4, lns. 48-54; col. 7, lns. 35-38).

Claim 5:

Regarding Claim 5, ESRI and Basin disclose the method wherein the geodata input files may be any of the following formats: vector, raster, or tabular (ESRI: pg. 1, [GIS Data Sharing on the Internet Is a Reality], lns. 6-10; pg. 7, [Discovering Metadata With ArcCatalog], lns. 4-6).

Claim 6:

Regarding Claim 6, ESRI and Basin disclose the method wherein the metadata database is a relational database (ESRI: pg. 6, [ArcSDE], lns. 4-5).

Claim 7:

Regarding Claim 7, ESRI and Basin disclose the method wherein the database access is via a Z39.50 server (ESRI: pg. 3, [Digital Communication Standards], lns. 1-10).

Claim 8:

Regarding Claim 8, ESRI and Basin disclose the method wherein the metadata harvester retrieves metadata on a periodic basis (ESRI: pg. 7, [Discovering Metadata With ArcCatalog], lns. 1-8).

Claim 9:

Regarding Claim 9, ESRI and Basin disclose the method wherein the metadata harvester retrieves only metadata files which are new since a prior harvest (ESRI: pg. 7, [Discovering Metadata With ArcCatalog], lns. 1-6).

Claim 11:

Regarding Claim 11, ESRI and Basin disclose the method wherein the metadata complies with the FDGC standard or other metadata standards (ESRI: pg. 1, [ESRI Supports Metadata], lns. 1-5; pg. 5, [Standards-Based Metadata Tools], lns. 1-4).

Claim 12:

Regarding Claim 12, ESRI and Basin disclose the method wherein the internet server may receive query data in any one of the following formats: spatial, keyword, or temporal (ESRI: pg. 3, [Digital Communication Standards], lns. 7-10; pg. 6, [Clearinghouse Support], lns. 2-3).

6. Claims 2, 10 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over ERIS in view of Basin, and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/00590919 by Brown et al. (hereafter Brown).

Claim 2:

Regarding Claim 2, ESRI and Basin disclose the method wherein the storing step is performed by storing an XML metadata file and for each archive file (ESRI: pg. 2, [What Is Metadata?], lns. 1-3) and (Basin: col. 4, lns. 48-54).

ESRI and Basin do not explicitly disclose: an HTML metadata file.

However, Brown disclose: an HTML metadata file (Brown: [0130], lns. 7-10).

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate storing HTML metadata file of Brown into the archiving files of Basin and the geographic information system of ESRI. One skilled artisan would have been motivated to combine the Brown's teaching of storing in HTML metadata file in the Basin's teaching of

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archiving files and in the ESRI's teaching of accessing geodata of ESRI to identify how access to content is obtained, monitor or keep a record (Brown: [0010], Ins. 1-4).

Claim 10:

Regarding Claim 10, ESRI, Basin, and Brown disclose the method wherein the metadata harvester retrieves both XML and HTML metadata files (ESRI: pg. 7, Ins. 1-4) and (Brown: [0130], Ins. 7-10).

Claim 13:

Regarding Claim 13, ESRI, Basin, and Brown disclose the method wherein each record has a first metadata link to an HTML metadata file and a second metadata link to an XML file (ESRI: pg. 3, [Digital Communication Standards], Ins. 1-5; pg. 9, Ins. 1-4) and (Brown: [0130], Ins. 7-10).

7. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over ERIS in view of Basin, and further in view of published website of "Geography Network", published on 8/1/2001 at <http://web.archive.org/web/20010801165214/www.geographynetwork.com/data/index.html> (hereafter Geography).



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Claim 14:

Regarding Claim 14, ERIS and Basin disclose the method wherein the metadata page further contains associated with the metadata (ERIS: pg. 5, [Supported Data Types], lns. 1-8).

ERIS and Basin do not explicitly disclose: a thumbnail image of a map.

However, Geography discloses: a thumbnail image of a map (geography network, pg. 1).

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to incorporate geographic data for mapping system of Geography into the archiving files of Basin and the geographic information system of ESRI. One skilled artisan would have been motivated to combine the Geography's teaching of accessing to a collection of geographic data in the Basin's teaching of archiving files and in the ESRI's teaching of accessing geodata of ESRI to access to a collection of geographic data (Geography: lns. 1-10).

***Conclusion***

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Monica M. Pyo whose telephone number is 571-272-8192. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 6:30 - 3:00.

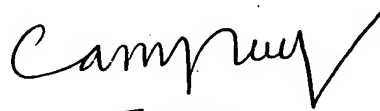
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on 571-272-4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Monica M Pyo  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2161

5/16/06

  
Cam Y. Tuong  
Primary Examiner